

Snowball Fight (Relationships)

UNDERSTAND (Why?)

This simple activity gets kids moving, laughing, and learning more about each other. It's perfect for creating connections, breaking the ice, or celebrating special occasions. This activity also encourages active listening, respectful communication, and a positive classroom atmosphere.

PREPARE (Students)

Alright, everyone! Today, we're going to do a fun activity that will get us moving, laughing, and learning more about each other—a paper snowball fight! Don't worry, there's no actual snow, just a fun way to share something about ourselves and make connections. Here's how it works: you'll each write something on a piece of paper, crumple it into a 'snowball,' and then we'll have a quick, safe snowball toss. After that, we'll read what's inside and try to guess who wrote it! Remember, the goal is to have fun, be respectful, and enjoy learning about each other!

TEACH (Explicitly)

Alright, let's get started! First, I'm passing out a piece of paper to each of you. On your paper, I want you to write [give specific prompt, e.g., 'a fun fact about yourself' or 'your favorite hobby']. **Keep it short and simple—just one sentence is all you need. Once you've written it, don't put your name on it! We want to keep it a mystery.**

Now, take your paper and crumple it into a ball—make sure it's crumpled enough to be a good 'snowball' but not too tight that we can't open it later.

Next, when I say 'go,' you'll stand up and gently toss your snowballs around the room. You can pick up and re-throw any snowballs near you—just keep them moving! Avoid throwing at faces or targeting people—just toss them randomly and have fun. I'll set a timer for 30 seconds—ready? Go!

(Let students throw snowballs while keeping an eye on safety. After time is up...)

And stop! Everyone, pick up the closest snowball to you and return to your seat. Now, one at a time, we'll open our snowballs and read them out loud. As each one is read, we'll all guess who wrote it! If no one guesses right away, the writer can reveal themselves.

Let's start with [choose a student]. **What does your snowball say?"**

(Continue until all snowballs have been read. Wrap up by discussing what students learned about each other and reinforcing how fun it is to make connections!)

SUPPORT (Pivots)

- It can help to offer sentence starters like:
 - "One thing I enjoy is..."
 - "If I could have any superpower, it would be..."
- If you have students who may struggle with throwing or retrieving snowballs, consider an alternative version where students pass the snowballs around instead of tossing them.